

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 AID-05 SAJ-01 /088 W

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R 161508Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2639

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0105

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AO, NI, SV, ZA

SUBJECT: SOVIET AND NIGERIAN HAND SUSPECTED BEHIND PRO-MPLA
STUDENT DEMONSTRATION

SUMMARY. ZAMBIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED THURSDAY
ON BEHALF OF MPLA. ZAMBIAN SOURCE SAYS SOVIET AND NIGERIAN
FACULTY ENCOURAGED DEMONSTRATION. THIS IS FIRST OVERT SIGN OF
PUBLIC DISAPPROVAL OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S ANGOLAN STANCE, BUT
NO PUBLIC CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY ANTICIPATED. SOVIET ATTEMPTS
SUBVERT ZAMBIAN STUDENTS LIKELY HARDEN PRESIDENT'S POSITION
AND INCREASE HIS ALREADY DEEP DISTRUST OF USSR. END SUMMARY.

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BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FIRST OPEN SIGN OF DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S ANGOLAN POLICY APPEARED AFTERNOON JANUARY 15 WHEN ABOUT 200 UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA (UNZA) STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED ON CAMPUS OUTSIDE LUSAKA IN SUPPORT MPLA AND AGAINST FNLA AND UNITA. LATTER BRANDED AS "CIA AGENTS." AT LEAST TEN TRUCKLOADS ARMED RIOT POLICE SENT TO CAMPUS WHICH WAS SEALED OFF TO GENERAL PUBLIC, BUT NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. OBSERVERS WHO WERE PRESENT TOLD US LATER THAT WHILE LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WERE MILLING AROUND, IT DIFFICULT DETERMINE HOW MANY WERE ACTUAL DEMONSTRATORS AND HOW MANY JUST SPECTATORS. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED LATER THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS OF NORTECH TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN NDOLA. EDITOR OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL TOLD PAO THAT AUTHORITIES AWARE IN ADVANCE OF UNZA DEMONSTRATION AND WERE THUS ABLE TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS CONFINED IT TO CAMPUS. EDITOR SAID NIGERIAN AND SOVIET FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BUYING STUDENTS BEER AND INCITING THEM TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR MPLA. INDICATED HE BELIEVES CERTAIN LEFTIST-ORIENTED PROFESSORS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN AGITATING AGAINST FNLA AND UNITA BECAUSE OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT.

3. COMMENT: GRZ SUSPICION OF SOVIET AND NIGERIAN INVOLVEMENT WITH STUDENT DEMONSTRATION, AS WELL AS SOVIET PRESS ATTACKS ON AFRICAN MODERATES (MOSCOW 613), LIKELY HARDEN PRESIDENT'S ALREADY PROFOUND DISTRUST OF SOVIETS AND STRENGTHEN HIS RESISTENCE TO THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHILE SOME PRO-MPLA

SENTIMENT UNDOUBTEDLY EXISTS IN ZAMBIA, DOUBTFUL UNZA DEMONSTRATIONS REFLECT ANY INDIGENOUS TREND TOWARD GROWING POPULAR DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S MODERATE STAND. MANY UNZA STUDENTS INDIFFERENT TO RULING UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY AND CRITICAL OF KAUNDA MODERATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. THEIR DISENCHANTMENT ENHANCED BY LAST YEAR'S DECISION THAT HENCEFORTH ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED UNDERGO 20 MONTHS COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICE, INCLUDING POLITICAL EDUCATION, PRIOR TO MATRICULATION AT UNZA AND OTHER POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS. SOVIETS AND NIGERIANS
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THEREFORE HAVE FERTILE GROUND IN WHICH SOW SEEDS OF STUDENT DISCONTENT WITH ZAMBIA'S ANGOLAN POLICY. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES APPEAR READY ACT DETERMINEDLY BUT WITH RESTRAINT TO KEEP STUDENTS IN BOUNDS AND NO SERIOUS PUBLIC CHALLENGE TO KAUNDA'S AUTHORITY IS ANTICIPATED FROM OTHER ZAMBIAN QUARTERS.
WILKOWSKI

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